# ORDINARY PEOPLE

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### *The ancestors of Jane & Roger Davies*

*Two hundred years ago, in 1800, George III was King, William Pitt was Prime Minister, and Britain was at war with France. The London docks had recently been dug, but transport was mainly by horse drawn carts on unmade roads, which were slowly being improved, and the newly built canal system. There were no cars or railways, no telephone or telegraph, and only a limited postal system. Slaves were still being imported into the vast British Empire. But the industrial revolution was spreading. Factories were springing up, and as a result the coal and metal mining industries were growing rapidly. There was no age restriction on working, and children worked in factories and mines as soon as they were old enough to fulfil a useful function. However, most of the population were still country people working on the land.*

It was into this environment in 1802 that **Edmund William**, the first of Jane & Roger's 32 great-great-grandparents was born in Coychurch, a small village of scattered farmsteads near Bridgend, Glamorgan. The son of **David William**, a farm worker, and his wife, Edmund lived all his life in the area and married a local girl, **Catherine Morgan**, also a farmer's daughter of the same age from the nearby village of Ewenny. They lived and worked in Coychurch, where they brought up eight children.

St Crallo Church, Coychurch, Glamorgan, where William Edmond and others of his family

*The Welsh originally used an ancient patronymic naming system whereby the children of a marriage took their father's forename as their surname. As a result surnames were not fixed, but changed from generation to generation. Sometimes patronymics were strung together with names like David Morgan Rees. As the system was slowly abandoned in favour of inherited surnames, the patronymic name was either retained, as Owen and Thomas, or changed, so that John became Jones and William, Williams. The old practice continued until the early 1800s, with rural areas clinging to the patronymic system longer than urban areas. As a direct result of the patronymic naming system, over half of Welsh people in the early nineteenth century shared eight surnames – Jones, Williams, Davies, Thomas, Evans, Roberts, Hughes and Lewis.*

All of these names appear in Roger's family tree, some more than once, and fourteen of Roger's sixteen great-great-grandparents had patronymic surnames.

Other branches of the family were also involved in agriculture. **Hugh Roberts** was born in 1812 at Llanengan on the Lleyn peninsula in North Wales. As a young man he lived and worked with Enoch Hughes on the farm where he was born at Tyn-y-Morfa, Llanengan. In 1844, when Hugh married **Ellin Roberts**, born in 1822, he used the name Hugh Hughes and named Enoch as his father.

Tyn-y-Morfa, where Hugh Roberts grew up, as it may have looked in the past and Creigir Goch, home

Hugh lived to the age of 77, and Ellin 78. Throughout their lives they always used the Hughes surname, passing it on to their ten children. Ellin was the daughter of **John Roberts**, another Llanengan farmer. John Roberts' wife, **Ellin** née **Jones**, died in 1843, and John married again. He died from "infirmity of old age" in 1876 at the age of 84.

*When a large proportion of the population was illiterate, the recording of ages and the spelling of names was very unreliable. Names would be spelt as the recorder heard them said, and ages*

*would be approximated and sometimes adjusted to meet the needs of the situation. Wives are often recorded as slightly younger than their husbands on marriage when in fact they were considerably older.*

**Nicholas Gribble** and his wife **Eliza** née **Pascoe** farmed on Illogan Down, Cornwall. Nicholas was born in Illogan in 1812, and Eliza in 1817 in nearby Gwennap. Eliza was Nicholas's second wife. He married Elizabeth Blight, his first wife in 1836, but she died just five years later. Nicholas & Eliza had five children following their marriage in 1843. Eliza died in 1882, but Nicholas continued farming until he retired and moved into lodgings just before his death in 1901 at the age of 89. Surviving the Queen by nine months, he had lived through the complete reigns of three sovereigns – George IV, William IV and Victoria.

**Jane Daniel**, born in Kentish Town, London in 1836, was the daughter of **William Daniel**, an omnibus conductor and later a poulterer, and **Sophia** née **Morgan**. **Phoebe Dumpleton**, who was born in 1840 and started work at the age of three as a straw plaiter, was the daughter of **William Dumpleton,** a shepherd and **Susan** née **Pantling** in Wiggington, a village on the borders of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

*Straw plaiting involved splitting stems of corn lengthways with iron splitters and plaiting it into a variety of patterns, using five, seven or twenty plaits. Much plaiting was done indoors, but it could be done sitting outside, or even walking along. The straw was plaited into twenty-yard lengths and sold for making hats and baskets. The chalky fields of Bedfordshire produced straw that was ideal for plaiting, and this area became the centre of a thriving industry. A child could begin learning to plait straw as early as two years old and at three could be sent to the local plaiting school. The authorities stipulated that reading and writing should be included, but plaiting was the main subject taught, the teachers, with few exceptions, being unable to read and write themselves. A woman with her children could earn considerably more by plaiting straw than her husband earned as a farm labourer.*

A contemporary painting of a straw plaiting

Phoebe was illiterate and remained so throughout her life. Almost two-thirds of the females of this generation were unable to read and write, and a quarter of the males, but by the end of the century literacy was the norm.

Mining played an important part in the lives of this generation of the family. **James Bowden** was born the son of **Joseph & Mary Bowden**, farm workers on the Lizard peninsula in Cornwall in 1826 and married **Grace Randle**, six years his senior and the daughter of **Charles & Sarah Rundle**. Charles was a woodman. They moved to the metal mines of Redruth after their marriage in 1847 and the birth of their first son two months later. They had three further children and James spent the rest of his life as a miner there. Their parents, like Enoch Hughes in North Wales and William Edmond in South Wales, continued as farm workers throughout their lives.

*Copper and tin have long been mined in Cornwall and Redruth and the surrounding area was the centre of the industry. Mines were often small and accessed by ladder and the work was hard. Nevertheless, the industry flourished as industrial demand for the metals grew. Output grew more rapidly in the nineteenth century, after Richard Trevithick of Illogan introduced his beam engine, based on Boulton and Watt's earlier invention. Not only could the new engines be used to wind cages carrying men and ore up and down the shaft but they could also extract water from the mines and lower the water table, exposing previously inaccessible deposits. By the middle of the century there were hundreds of Trevithick's beam engines in use in the area, and the mining industry was attracting migrants from the rest of Cornwall and further afield.*

**Richard Penrose**, who was born in Redruth in 1824, established himself as a copper mine agent; his father **Arthur Penrose** was an assayer for the mines. In 1842, Richard married **Frances Harris**, a local miner's daughter who was born in nearby St Agnes in 1816. They had at least twelve children in Illogan, near Redruth and,

although some moved away, most retained a connection with the mining industry.

**Sally Retallack Willoughby**, the daughter of **William Willoughby**, another miner, was also born in Illogan in 1824. Sally's middle name was inherited from her mother, **Mary Ann** née **Retallack**. Mary Ann lived to the age of 93 and her mother **Ann** née **Reynolds**, 90. William's mother **Ann** née **Chapel** lived to age 96, although her gravestone in Illogan churchyard claims only 92. The Willoughbys and the Retallacks are long established Cornish families, which have been traced back a further seven generations, to around 1600.

*Retallack, Penrose and Gribble are all locative names, derived from descriptions of places in the Cornish language. Retallack was originally res talek, or ford by a steep slope, Penrose was pen ros, the end of a moor and Gribble, cryb bell, a distant ridge. As with Welsh, the Cornish language was designed for speaking rather than writing. The initial consonants of words are changed depending on the previous syllable according to strict rules to make enunciation easier. For example in Welsh, gwlad means land and tadau, fathers. Land of my Fathers, though, is 'Hen wlad fy nhadau', making it easier to say, and, of course, sing. Similarly, in the closely related Cornish language, cryb bell became Gribble.*

In 1846 Sally Willoughby married **John Thomas Lawry**, a stonemason born in Budock near Falmouth 25 years earlier but now working in Illogan, attracted no doubt by the prosperity and associated work that the thriving mines were generating. They had four children.

**Isaac Jones**, born in 1806, was a lead mine engineer at Moel-y-Crio, Flintshire. His father, also **Isaac Jones**, a stonemason, was the illegitimate son of **John Mostyn**, a gentleman from Denbigh. *North Wales was also an important mining centre. The rich veins of lead ore on Halkyn Mountain had been known since Roman times. In the later years of the seventeenth century, new veins of ore were discovered and exploited, bringing into the area a large number of skilled miners. Existing villages grew rapidly to house these newcomers, but new communities were also established, many of them beginning as encroachments on to the common land under squatters rights. The village of Moel-y-Crio began this way, and remains a remote settlement of scattered houses on the edge of the stretch of moorland known as Halkyn mountain. The land is littered with the remains of lead mining shafts. By the nineteenth century lead mines had become large concerns necessitating deeper mining techniques. This brought problems of flooding resulting in the digging of deep drainage tunnels and the use of industrial machinery.*

John Mostyn came from a very distinguished family.  His great-great-grandfather **Sir Roger Mostyn of Mostyn** married **Mary Wynn**.
Sir Roger's 5xgreat-grandmother was the sister of Owen Glyndwr.
Mary Wynn's 20xgreat-grandfather was **Rhodri Mawr**, King of Wales.
Rhodri Mawr's 6xgreat-grandfather was reputedly **Uthyr Pendragon**, King of Britain in 488 AD and father of King Arthur.
Uthyr Pendragon was a direct descendant of the Roman emperor **Constantine the Great**.

*These illustrious ancestors may seem to make this branch of the family extraordinary, but given the number of ancestors of each individual going this far back, and the relatively small size of the population then, it is far from unusual.  It is said that anyone alive today with any English blood is almost certainly a direct descendant of King Edward I, and it is probable that almost every Welsh person is a direct descendant of Rhodri Mawr.  What is more unusual is being able to construct the full ancestry linking modern day individuals with them.*

Sir Roger Mostyn’s 3xgreat grandfather was Iorwerth ap Ieuan, who lived in Denbighshire in the fifteenth century and was the 5xgreat grandson of King Edward I.

The name Mostyn was a very early adoption of a non-patronymic surname. In 1539, at the Flintshire Court of Session, the judge was so annoyed by the length of the patronymic name of one of the attendees, Thomas ap Richard ap Howel ab Ieuan Vychan, that he instructed him to adopt the surname Mostyn, after the house where he lived.  The Mostyn family were one of the richest in Wales, with several houses across North Wales, and extensive holdings of land. The town of Mostyn is named after one of these houses, and they are credited with establishment of the town of Llandudno.

John Mostyn lived in the family mansion of Segrwyd, near Denbigh, but also kept a large townhouse in the city. There he established a factory to produce cloth from the local wool, and was credited with being the first to introduce the industry to the county. The factory was beset by problems, however, and lasted for only a few years.

Segrwyd Hall and the Mostyn

At the age of 23 the younger Isaac Jones married the seventeen-year-old **Elizabeth Roberts**, who was born in 1812 and brought up in the mining town of Northop nearby. After their marriage in 1829 the couple had seven children, before Isaac died in 1845. Elizabeth was married again, this time to Peter Jones, another Moel-y-Crio miner, and had four more children. Peter & Elizabeth both lived into their seventies and are buried in Halkyn churchyard.

The ruined remains of Tyddyn ucha, the smallholding in Moel-y-Crio where Elizabeth Roberts

**Leyshon Thomas**, of Neath, was a mould-maker, perhaps at the Neath Abbey iron works. Born in 1814, he lived in Neath, marrying at 20 a local girl, **Elizabeth Hill**, who was four years older than him. They had eleven children.

*The growth of the metalworking industry in the early nineteenth century was driven by a number of factors. The arrival of the steam engine had made industrial operations more efficient, as well as providing more effective transport of both raw materials and finished products. The invention of the blast furnace and of "puddling", the raking of iron in the furnace while molten, allowed iron to be cast using coal in furnaces rather than the more difficult to obtain charcoal. The South Wales coal was ideally suited to this*

*new process, and it provided the basis for a flourishing industry. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Britain had relied on imports of iron from Sweden and Russia, where wood for charcoal was abundant. But by 1850, the South Wales industry was producing over half of the world's iron. Almost every rail of the United States railway system built in the next half century was produced in the South Wales valleys.*

The remains of the two large furnaces at the Neath Abbey

*In 1792 three Quaker families bought an industrial site on the banks of the river Clydach at Neath Abbey with the intention of producing pig iron for their foundries in Cornwall. They built large blast furnaces with air blown by a Bolton & Watt steam engine, the most powerful in Britain at the time. By 1818 the company was using moulds to produce machine parts and eventually complete steam engines. It became world famous, producing not only a wide variety of beam, pumping and marine engines, but also railway locomotives and, later, iron ships. Its products were exported all over the world. In 1829, under the watchful eye of George Stevenson, it produced the track which the next year carried his locomotive "The Rocket" from Liverpool to Manchester at a world record speed of 36 miles per hour.*

By 1861, Leyshon & Elizabeth Thomas were living at the Ferry Road Public House in Briton Ferry, selling beer, although Leyshon continued to describe himself as a moulder. In 1867 they emigrated to New York aboard the SS *City of London* and ran a saloon in Syracuse. Some of their family went with them and worked in the Syracuse iron factories but Catherine, their eldest daughter, who was already married, remained in Briton Ferry, and two of her siblings emigrated to new Zealand.

*Welsh emigration to the United States began in small sailing boats from the many little harbours around the Welsh coast, but by the middle of the nineteenth century, larger boats were sailing from Liverpool to the east coast, stopping at Queenstown, now Cobh, the port of Cork to pick up Irish emigrants. Most Welsh towns had emigration agents who sold passages on these larger vessels, which reduced the crossing time from many weeks to less than a fortnight and made the passage considerably safer. As a result, more and*

*more Welsh men and women sought their fortune in the New World, and in 1870 there were more than 75,000 Welsh-born people in the United States.*

In 1875, Leyshon and Elizabeth moved to Cleveland where they bought a saloon. Elizabeth died in there 1879, and the following year Leyshon, then aged 66, met and married Jennie Fitzsimons, a schoolteacher from Canada who was just 24 years old. They had a child, Gwendolyn, and their marriage lasted over 20 years until Leyshon's death in 1904 at the age of 89. The births of Leyshon's first and last children were separated by almost 50 years. His many descendants can be found living across the world, in Australia, New Zealand and the United States, as well as in England and Wales.

**Edward Edwards** of Neath, born 1833, and **William Skillbeck Thwaites** of Daventry, born 1837, both described themselves as tinplate workers, but while Edward worked in the manufacture of tinplate sheets, William was a whitesmith, converting the sheets into household utensils. William's father, also called **William Thwaites**, had moved from London to work in the tinplate industry in Daventry, close to his parents who were settled in nearby Weedon Bec. , His father John had been a tinman in the Royal Artillery, stationed at Weedon Barracks. William was born within the sound of the bells of St Mary le Bow in the City of London and was therefore a true cockney. William Skillbeck married **Ann Maria Bird**, the 23 year-old daughter of road labourer **Thomas Bird**, in Daventry in 1861 and later lived in nearby Weedon Bec. They had seven children.

*Tinplate consists of sheets of iron dipped in molten tin and run through rollers. The process was developed in the early eighteenth century, when tinsmiths working with hand tools hammered and soldered the material to make lamps, boxes and similar products. The coming of industrial processes in the early nineteenth century saw the opening of tinplate factories, making mass-produced kitchen utensils, as well as tin cans for preserving food.*

William Skillbeck died of bronchitis at the age of 42 and was survived by his father. Ann Maria moved to London and ran a newsagent shop in Hampstead before her death in 1915 at the age of 76.

Edward's father **Robert Edwards** was a copperman from Cadoxton near Neath, married to **Sarah** née **Williams** from the same village.

*The first copper smelting works in the Neath area was built in the sixteenth century. The smelters were attracted by the abundant coal supplies; the ore was transported by ship from Cornwall, and ore mined by the Cornish branch of the family was almost certainly*

*smelted in the factory where Robert Edwards was employed. The harbour of Portreath, near Illogan, was built in 1760 as an outlet for this trade, and its basins were once filled with small sailing vessels. This "Welsh fleet" of two-masted schooners sailed regularly out of the narrow harbour entrance loaded with copper ore destined for the smelting furnaces of Neath and Swansea. They returned with Welsh coal to fire the boilers of the steam-powered beam engines of the local tin and copper mines. The ships had to negotiate the hazardous harbour entrance, which must have required tremendous skill in the days of sail. Some of the ships carried well over a hundred tons of ore at a time. A railway was built in 1838 linking the mines of Camborne and Illogan with the harbour. A stationary steam engine hauled trucks up and down its steep face whilst its network of rails fanned out along the quaysides. Coal was being shipped into Portreath as recently as 1960.*

An early postcard of a ship of the Welsh fleet leaving Portreath and the harbour entrance

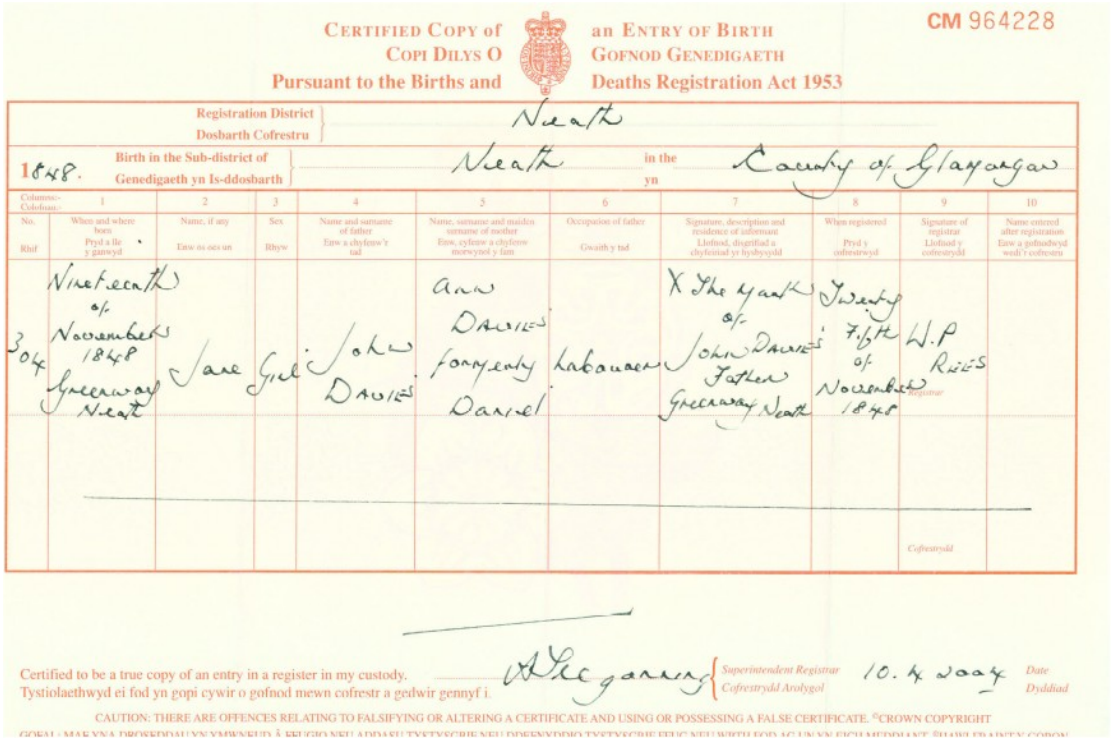
Edward Edwards married 24-year-old **Margaret Lewis**, daughter of a collier, in 1857, and their five children grew up in Neath. Edward was a boiler maker, but in 1871, he was in Swansea Gaol, serving time for a minor offence.

*Coal was the fuel of the industrial revolution and in South Wales it was abundant, of good quality and in close proximity to a ready supply of iron ore. As a result, coal mining and its associated industries boomed. The population trebled between 1750 and 1850, and South Wales was transformed from a quiet backwater to one of the foremost centres of industry in the world. By the end of the nineteenth century, Cardiff was exporting more coal than any other port in the world.*

Margaret's mother's parents were cousins. They were grandchildren of **Thomas & Elizabeth Nash** of Neath, as was Elizabeth Hill's mother. In a town of just a few thousand inhabitants, and with little opportunity to travel, such inter-relationships must have been common.

**John David,** born in Llannewydd, or Newchurch, Carmarthenshire in 1804, was a labourer. He married **Ann Daniel**, the 15 year-old daughter of **David Daniel**, a cooper and his wife **Esther** née **David** from Carmarthen Town in 1831, and had moved with his wife and two sons to Neath by 1841.

John & Ann's first four children were christened with the surname David, but by the birth of their second daughter Jane in Greenway, Neath in 1848 they had all adopted the anglicised version Davies.



CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH
COPI DILYS O GOFNOD GENEDIGAETH
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

CM 964228

Registration District / Dosbarth Cofrestru: Neath

1848. Birth in the Sub-district of / Genedigaeth yn Is-ddosbarth: Neath in the / yn County of Glamorgan

| No. / Rhif | 1 When and where born / Pryd a lle y ganwyd | 2 Name, if any / Enw os oes un | 3 Sex / Rhyw | 4 Name and surname of father / Enw a chyfenw'r tad | 5 Name, surname and maiden surname of mother / Enw, cyfenw a chyfenw morwynol y fam | 6 Occupation of father / Gwaith y tad | 7 Signature, description and residence of informant / Llofnod, disgrifiad a chyfeiriad yr hysbysydd | 8 When registered / Pryd y cofrestrwyd | 9 Signature of registrar / Llofnod y cofrestrydd | 10 Name entered after registration / Enw a gofnodwyd wedi'r cofrestru |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 304 | Nineteenth of November 1848 Greenway Neath | Jane | Girl | John Davies | Ann Davies formerly Daniel | Labourer | X The mark of John Davies Father Greenway Neath | Twenty Fifth of November 1848 | W.P Rees Registrar | |

Certified to be a true copy of an entry in a register in my custody. Tystiolaethwyd ei fod yn gopi cywir o gofnod mewn cofrestr a gedwir gennyf i.
Superintendent Registrar / Cofrestrydd Arolygol — 10.4.2004 Date / Dyddiad

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Jane's birth certificate marks the first occurrence of the family name Davies, and subsequently, John and his family were always Davies.

The cottage in Bush Row, Neath, where John and Ann Davies lived with their

**George Jones**, born in 1820 at Llangendeirne, Carmarthenshire, began life as a labourer, but learned his trade as a painter. His father, also **George Jones**, is named at his christening, but the entry for his mother is blank. Seven years after the baby was born, George married Sarah Jones, and they had eight further children together.

The younger George was working at Blaenau, one of the scattered farms in the picturesque Gwendraeth Fach valley in the parish of Llangendeirne when he met **Mary Evans**, also a labourer's daughter, working at the next farm, Cadwgan Fawr. Mary was 22, and had already given birth to their first child when they married in 1842. Four of their eight children were born in Carmarthenshire before they moved to Neath in 1850.

*Before the Victorian era it was far from unusual for the bride to be pregnant or even to have had the couple's first child when the marriage took place, and there are at least ten such examples in the family history. As long as the bride made it to the church steps before the birth, the child was legitimate. Otherwise, what subsequently appeared in the parish register was determined by the priest. Often the child is recorded as the illegitimate, spurious, bastard or base child of the mother and the father, if known, is named.*

The Gwenddraeth Fach Valley, where George Jones and Mary Evans lived and worked

**William Bright**, born in Houghton Regis, near Luton in 1839, also started work as a labourer, like his father before him, and married Phoebe Dumpleton, the shepherd's daughter in 1857. His father **James Bright** was a farm worker and his mother **Sarah** née **Janes** a straw plaiter. Sarah's father **Richard Janes** was a shepherd who lived to see his grandson marry and have children before his death in 1870 at the age of 86. Richard was the last surviving 5xgreat-grandparent of Jane and Roger.

William joined the Royal Marines Chatham Division, and served on HMS *Exmouth*, the flagship of the British Baltic fleet, for a year before returning to Milton Barracks near Gravesend, Kent.

HMS *Exmouth*, the flagship of the Baltic fleet, on which William Bright served in 1860

In 1869, after being invalided out of the Marines, he worked as a batman, a domestic servant to an officer of the Royal Engineers at Brompton Barracks, still the home of the Royal School of Military Engineering today. While there he and Phoebe brought up three children. William died of tuberculosis in 1872, and a year later, Phoebe married Thomas Saywell, a shoemaker. She lived with him in Sittingbourne, Kent until her death in 1911 at the age of 71.

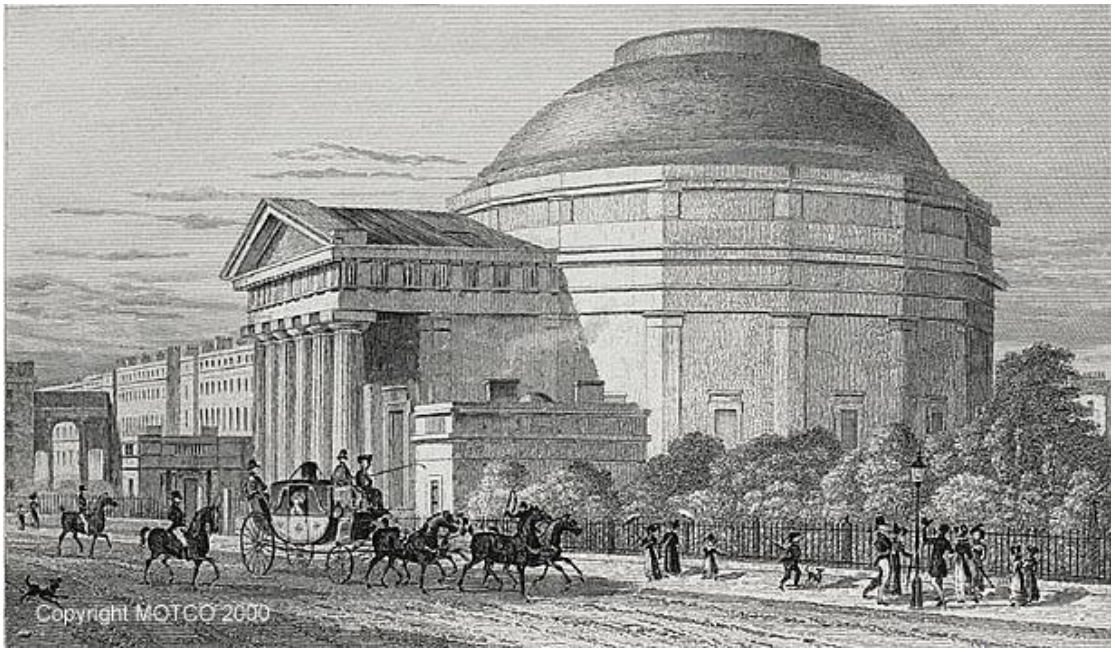
**James Edwin Brown** was a carpenter. Born in St Pancras, London in 1830 he married Jane Daniel in Old St Pancras Church in 1860. His father **James Brown** had also been a carpenter, moving to London from his birthplace, Warminster, Wiltshire, as a young man. James Brown's wife, **Sarah** née **Austin**, who he met and married in London, was the daughter of **Edward Austin** & **Anne** née **Pridden**. Anne's father John Pridden had fled from Shropshire to London to escape the attentions of an abusive stepfather. There he established a successful book selling business and was a well-known philanthropist. One of his many other children became a priest, and officiated at the funeral of Horatio Nelson.

John Pridden was completely blind due to cataracts by 1782. Baron Michael de Wenzel (or Wenzell, 1724-1790), oculist-in-ordinary to King George III from 1772 until his death in 1790, operated on him to remove them and allow him to see again with the aid of pebble glasses. The operation was performed without anaesthetic, and with remarkable speed.

John Pridden’s wife Anne Gregory has an ancestry which can be traced back thorough the landed gentry of England to Iorwerth ab Ieuan, a minor noble from 15th century Denbighshire, who was also an ancestor of the Mostyn family. As a result, Jane and Roger are 14th cousins, and direct descendants of the early English Plantagenet and Scottish kings.

John Pridden wearing his pebble glasses, and his house and bookshop at 100 Fleet Street

James Brown worked as a machinist at the Colosseum, on the south-east corner of Regent's Park.  Soon after of the announcement of its closure, in 1864, he died of heart disease. Sarah died two years later, and both were buried in Kensal Green cemetery, where their stone can still be seen.




The Colosseum, Regent's Park, London

*The Colosseum was a diorama, a circular building built to display a panorama of London as seen from the top of St Paul's Cathedral, and measuring 40,000 square feet. In addition, it offered a saloon decorated with sculpture and objects d'art, a landscape garden in which had been cut ravines, mountains and dells, and a conservatory 300 feet in length that was filled with exotic flowers and plants. An imitation Swiss cottage, which looked out onto a mountain waterfall, completed the range of entertainment. On the roof there was a circular veranda, and a dome that housed an enormous camera obscura. In 1844, an arena was installed for the newly invented sport of roller-skating.*

James Edwin and his wife Jane moved house frequently, living in various places in and around London. Their children were born in Limehouse, Croydon and Hammersmith. James Edwin Brown emigrated alone to New York in 1870 soon after the birth of his last child, and never returned to England. In 1911, his estate was belatedly probated in England, and he was reported to have died in the United States in 1876. Jane remained in London with her children, and lived until 1915 when, at the age of 79, she died in East Finchley after falling downstairs.

Lower Town, Fishguard, where Thomas and Lettice Sambrook lived

**James Sambrook** was born the son of **Lettice** née **Owen** and her husband **Thomas Sambrook** in Fishguard in 1816 and became a ships' carpenter. Thomas himself was a master mariner on a series of small ships making short domestic journeys from Milford Haven to English and Welsh ports and to Ireland. His last ship was the *Mary*, aboard which Thomas died in 1842, in Mullion Bay, Penzance.

Mullion Bay, Penzance. The harbour wall was built later in the nineteenth century.

James Sambrook married **Martha Richards**, a 23 year-old labourer's daughter from Llanwnda, in 1841 and they had eight children at their home in Tower Hill, Fishguard. Martha's father **James Richard** died at the age of 68, but her mother **Elizabeth Richard** lived on in relative poverty. Martha was married from her home in Slade, Fishguard. At the age of 78, Elizabeth was making a living knitting stockings. She died in 1871 at the age of 88, although her son-in-law James, who registered the death, thought she was 95 years old. Martha died in 1882 in Roath, Cardiff at the home of her two seafaring sons William and David, and her husband James at his home in Tower Hill in 1898 at the age of 81.

*Thomas and Lettice were both teenagers in Fishguard in 1797, and with their mothers may well have taken part in the events surrounding the last invasion of mainland Britain. A party of some 1400 French soldiers landed from four ships at Strumble Head, near*

*Fishguard. Following the success of the French Revolution, their plan was to encourage the locals to join them and march against the government. After some small skirmishes, they were rebuffed by local yeomanry, and large numbers of local women, dressed in their traditional red shawls, came to the headland to see the invaders. The French, mistaking them for red-coated soldiers, surrendered just two days after landing.*

In a letter to his sister,John Mathias of Fishguard gave a contemporary account of the incident.

Dear Sister

I write to you hoping that you are in good health as I am at present thanks be to God for it. The French invaded near Fishguard last Wednesday which put the Country in great confusion because they wear 14 hundred and the County gathered from all parts of Pembrokeshire near four hundred women in Red Flanes and Squier Cambell went to ask them were they to fight and they said they were and when they came near the French put down their arms and they was all took prisoners that time and are brought to Haverfordwest Friday night last… We had no more than four hundred men under arms and they thought the women Be a Ridgment of Soldiers.

Strumble Head, with the stone marking the invasion

The sea was in the blood of **Kingsby William Huntley** too. Born in 1842, the son of **Thomas Edward Boyce Huntley**, a tailor in the East End of London, and **Emma** née **Bennett**, he worked as a lighterman on the Thames. His great-grandfather **Kingsby Huntley** and several cousins were mariners from Lowestoft, and his father's uncle was the master of a Royal Navy brig.

*Lightermen conveyed goods between ships and the quayside. They took their name from this process of 'lightening' the ship. Lightermen had worked from the Thames wharves for centuries, but in the nineteenth century they secured the 'free water clause', exempting them from charges in the enclosed docks that*

*were then being built. They were thus able to enter the docks and receive or deliver goods directly to or from vessels. Although they worked long hours, lightermen enjoyed high status. Entry to the trade was tightly controlled, and each man had to serve an apprenticeship of between five and ten years. Jobs as lightermen were often passed down the generations.*

Thames lightermen in the nineteenth

Thomas & Emma later moved to Toxteth Park, Liverpool, with their son Walter. Thomas worked as a wharfinger's clerk, while Walter became a librarian at Liverpool Library. Kingsby remained in London, where in 1861 he was bound as an apprentice lighterman to Mary Ann Wright, born **Mary Ann Revely** in Menorca in 1813.

*Menorca had been under British sovereignty for much of the eighteenth century but was finally transferred to Spain in 1802 by the Treaty of Amiens.*

After the death of her lighterman husband **George Wright** in 1846, Mary Ann continued to bind apprentices, although she worked as a nurse at Greenwich Hospital. Five months after starting his apprenticeship, with her, Kingsby married her daughter, **Mary Ann Wright**. Although described as of full age on her marriage certificate, Mary Ann Wright was in fact only fifteen when her marriage to Kingsby Huntley took place.

*The minimum age at which young people could marry changed regularly in the past. Long ago it was seven, but in 1660 it was fixed at 14 for a boy and 12 for a girl. Parental consent for those under 21, so not of full age, was introduced for a time but removed by 1823. It was only in 1929 that the minimum age was raised to 16, and parental consent reintroduced.*

Kingsby ended his apprenticeship in 1870 and became a freeman of the Company of Watermen, later becoming an inspector for the Company. Each month he appeared before the Company Court bringing charges against watermen for offences such as overloading boats and using abusive language. His appearances stopped quite suddenly after July 1874, and in October he is reported in the Court minutes as having absconded and left England, abandoning Mary Ann and their four children. Nothing more is known about him, but in 1880 his wife married Thomas Tisdell, describing herself as a widow. Thomas & Mary Ann already had two children together. A few years later, Thomas also left England and, although still married to Mary Ann, was married again to Rose Dogan, a French speaking Canadian. They had six children, but only two survived infancy. Mary Ann again described herself as a widow and continued to live in South-East London until her death at the age of 87 in 1933.

So of this generation of the family, half were Welsh and a quarter Cornish. By occupation they were fairly evenly split between farm workers, mine workers, tradesmen and industrial labourers. All were working class, and so were their children.

The prospering economy of Neath was attracting families from other parts of Wales. Already John David and George Jones and their families had moved here from Carmarthen, and the Sambrooks moved to Neath from Fishguard in the 1860's. They probably travelled on the South Wales Railway.

*Railways developed rapidly in the nineteenth century. George Stevenson opened the Stockton and Darlington railway in 1825, although Richard Trevithick, the beam engine maker from Illogan, had demonstrated a steam locomotive running on a tramway built in Abercynon, near Pontypridd in 1804. The South Wales Railway was built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and opened in 1852. Amalgamated with other railway companies' lines, it formed the railway that still runs today from London Paddington to Fishguard. By 1855 there were over 8000 miles of track in use in England and Wales.*

It was in Neath that **Mary Sambrook,** daughter of James and Martha, met **William Davies**, the blacksmith son of John and Ann. William was given the surname David on his birth in Neath on November 9 1841, shortly after the family's move from Carmarthenshire, but had been known as William Davies from before the age of 7. Mary was 21 and he 24 when they married in 1866. They had five children, three of whom bore Mary's family name Sambrook as a first name. After William's death in the 1884

at the age of 42 she married again, but her second husband also predeceased her. She died in 1923 at the age of 78.

**William Williams**, son of Edmund & Catherine William from Coychurch, was born in nearby Pencoed in 1838. Although he was known throughout his life as William, his birth was registered in the name Edmund. He started work as a labourer, but soon left home to live and work in Neath as a goods train guard on the South Wales Railway. After losing his first wife early in their marriage, he married **Catherine Thomas**, widowed daughter of Leyshon & Elizabeth, in 1863 when she was 28 years old. They had four sons and two daughters together, and Catherine had two other sons from her first marriage.

Henry Street Neath, where the Williams, later the Jones, family lived for many years

Living in Henry Street, William continued to work on the railway until his death
in 1903 at the age of 65. Catherine reached the age of 91 before her death in 1927, and was remembered fondly by her grandchildren. Edith, her youngest grandchild, recalls being sent out every evening to buy her a pint of beer, which she would hide under her shawl if visitors arrived. William & Catherine are buried in Briton Ferry churchyard.

**Henry Bowden**, son of James & Grace, was born in Mawgan-in-Meneage, near Falmouth in 1847, but moved with his parents to Redruth when he was still a toddler. Later in life he spelled his name Bawden. By the age of 16 he was driving a mine engine in

Redruth.  Here he met **Ellen Lawry**, the daughter of the stonemason John and his wife Sally.

*The strong Cornish accent made the names Bawden and Lawry particularly prone to variations of spelling.  Before their modern spellings became standard in the late nineteenth century, variations included Bowden, Boden Bauden & Boaden, and Lowry, Laury, Laurey, Lory, Loary & Lowary.*

Henry & Ellen married in1864, when both were just 16.  They had three children by 1873, but after that, Henry left home and became an itinerant violinist.  Ellen and her children lived with her uncle who ran the Phillips Hotel, now the Robartes Arms, in Robartes Terrace, Illogan.  Henry was in St Blazey, Cornwall in 1881 and in Exeter in 1901, but was not listed in 1891 census.

*Although the decennial censuses were meant to be a full listing of the population on one particular night, the enumeration was far from complete.  In 1841 anyone not living in a house was not counted.  As the process developed, sailors and sevicemen overseas were included, but workers on night shift were not at home on the night in question, and so were often not listed.  The amount of information increased over time, too.  In 1841 it was just name, occupation, approximate age and whether or not born in the county of residence.  Exact ages and places of birth, more precise addresses and family relationships were soon added, and by the end of the century information on disability and, in Wales, what languages were spoken, was included in the return.  The accuracy was still dependent on the diligence of the enumerator, however.*

Henry eventually returned to Illogan, where he died in 1922 at the age of 74.  His wife Ellen died in 1939 at the age of 91, and is buried in Trevenson churchyard, Illogan.  On her death certificate, she is described as the widow of a mining engineer, rather than a musician as Henry was described at his own death.

Following their move to Neath from Carmarthen with their five daughters, George & Mary Jones had their first son, also **George Jones**, in Neath in 1854, as well as a sixth daughter.  Young George followed his father into the painting trade.  In 1876, at the age of 22, he married **Rachel Edwards**, the 19 year-old daughter of Edward & Margaret, and they eventually moved to Pen-y-Dre, Neath, Rachel's birthplace.

The gravestone of George Jones and his wife Mary in Llantwit cemetery. The stone, like much of the cemetery, is almost obscured by an

George died at the age of 46, but Rachel lived on in Pen-y-Dre until 1930, when she died the day after her 73rd birthday. Like many of the Neath branch of the family, George & Rachel are buried in the cemetery of St Illtyd's Church in Llantwit-juxta-Neath.

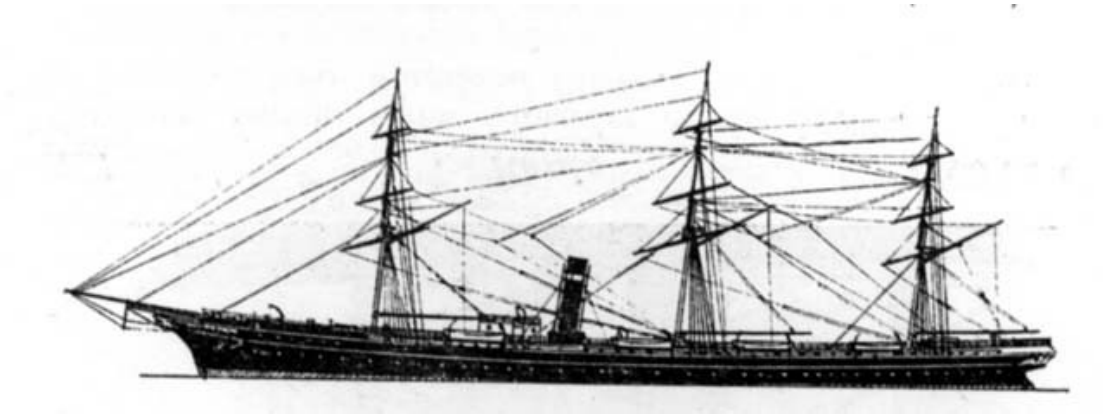
Pen-y-Dre, Neath, home of the Davies family

There was a strong influence of trade in this generation of the family. **James Austin Brown**, son of James Edwin & Jane, was born in Limehouse in 1863. In 1884 he met and married 19 year-old **Elizabeth Bright** from Sittingbourne, who had grown up in Old Brompton barracks with her parents William and Phoebe. James &

Elizabeth had four children in Northfleet, Kent, where James was a saddler. Elizabeth may have been a court dressmaker.
Later they moved back to South East London where James worked as an insurance agent, although he always described himself as a saddler or, later, a master boot and shoe repairer. Elizabeth died in Greenwich in 1928 at the age of 62, and James aged 72 in Blackheath in 1935.

**John Henry Thwaites,** the son of William & Ann Maria born in Weedon Bec in 1871, also worked with leather. After the death of his father he moved to St Pancras in London in the 1880s with his mother and four other children and became a portmanteau maker. Two of his brothers worked in a pianoforte factory, and one, Thomas, as a warehouseman for an artists' colour shop. Thomas may have been an artist himself. Their sister was a waitress. John Henry Thwaites married **Mary Ann Huntley,** daughter of the missing Kingsby Huntley and Mary Ann, then Tisdell, in 1890 in All Saints Church, Newington when both were 19 years old. The couple spent much of their lives in the docklands south of the river, bringing up three children and eventually moving to 5 Eugenia Road, Bermondsey. Later they moved to Sydenham, Kent, where Mary Ann died in 1949 at the age of 78, and John two years later, aged 80.

Earlier, in Illogan, **Richard Penrose** was growing up with his 11 brothers and sisters in the family house on the Goosegwarra farm estate in St Agnes. He started work in the mines where his father Richard was still a mine agent. However, there was much talk of the gold being found in Northern California following the 1849 gold rush, and at the age of 19 the younger Richard set out to find his fortune, following his elder brother to Nevada County, California.



The steam and sail ship *City of Paris*, aboard which Richard Penrose sailed to New York

He sailed from Liverpool aboard the *City of Paris*, a large transatlantic steam and sailing ship carrying 865 steerage passengers and a further 55 in cabins, and arrived in New York on 13th April 1868. He then crossed the continent, partly by railroad but also partly by wagon, since the two ends of the first transcontinental railroad were not joined until the following year. Later, in 1871, **Eliza Ellen Gribble**, the 19 year-old daughter of the Illogan farmers Nicholas & Eliza, joined him. They were married that year and had their first child in Grass Valley, Nevada County.

*The Cornish migration to Nevada County began in 1849 with the discovery of gold, and by the 1870's large numbers of Cornish tin miners were arriving. They were skilled hardrock miners, and brought with them the sophisticated water pump technology that had been developed in Cornwall. It was a common ambition among the miners to bring their family members to the United States. Many worked in the Empire mine in Grass Valley, which was begun in 1850 and operated until 1956, by which time it had over 350 miles of underground passages. At one time three-quarters of the population of Grass Valley was Cornish. The site is now the Empire Mine Historic Park.*

The couple did not stay in California, but in 1875 came back to Illogan, where they had their second child.

The home of Richard & Eliza Ellen Penrose in Churchtown, Illogan

Richard gave up mining, and set up as a beer & porter merchant. He later established a mineral water manufacturing business

making the flavoured fizzy drinks, such as ginger beer and dandelion & burdock, which were popular at the time.

*The process for artificially aerating water was discovered in 1783 by Jacob Schweppe, a German born Swiss, but it was not until 1835 that the company he founded, Schweppes & Co of London, began adding fruit flavours, starting with lemon. They later added ginger beer and other flavours to the range, and the increasing popularity of these drinks led to the establishment of a large number of mineral water factories across the country.*

Richard Penrose died in 1899 at the age of 51 and is buried in Illogan churchyard. Eliza, who took over the business until her death six years later at the age of 53, is buried with him.

The memorial cross to Richard & Eliza Ellen Penrose in Illogan churchyard

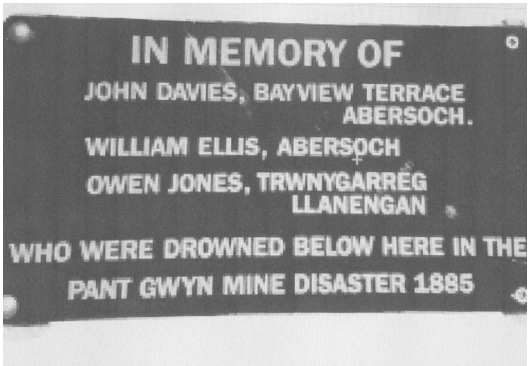
Just as the Bawden family were maintaining the family links with mining in Cornwall, so **Owen Jones**, born at Moel-y-Crio in 1844, was following in his father Isaac's footsteps as a lead miner in Flint.

As a young man he moved to Llanengan, Caernarfon  to work in the lead mines, and it was here that he met **Mary Hughes**, the farmer's daughter born in 1854 in Llanengan.  They were married in 1872, and moved to Rhosymedre, near Wrexham, where Owen took to mining coal.  Later the couple moved back to live with Mary's family on the farm at Tyn-y-Morfa, Llanengan where they brought up five children, and Owen returned to lead mining.  It was an unfortunate move.

On 17th February, 1885, Owen was working with two other miners 370 feet below the surface in the Pant Gwyn mine at Llanengan.

The modern rural villages of Moel-y-crio, left, and Llanengan show little sign of their mining history.

They were digging a new shaft to replace an old one that had flooded.  The mine survey on which they relied showed them to be a safe 50 feet away from the old flooded shaft.  Unfortunately, the survey was inaccurate, and they were actually only nine feet away. Without warning, water under pressure from the old shaft broke through to the new and flooded it to a depth of 200 feet.  The three miners were drowned.  It took almost two months for pumping engines from other shafts to be connected to pump out the water and recover the bodies.  All three of the miners left wives and children, and a fund for them raised £41, mostly from the fines imposed on the mine owner and his agent for their failure to keep an accurate plan of the mine.  The Pant Gwyn mine continued in production but was finally closed in 1892.




The memorial plaque at the site of the

Mary later ran a grocer shop, and had two more children before marrying John Evan Hughes, a local Calvanistic minister, in 1892. She had known him as a child when she served as a maid in his parents' house. Sadly she died in childbirth the following year and was buried in Llanengan churchyard with her new-born baby, who had lived for just four days.

By 1901 the youngest daughter of Owen and Mary was living in the family home looking after one of these later children.

Trwyn y Garreg, the small cottage in Llanengan where Owen Jones and his family lived at the

Mary spoke only Welsh throughout her life and presumably so did her parents and her husband, Owen. Roger's six other great-grandparents all spoke Welsh but could also speak English. His four grandparents were all bilingual, but as adults they generally spoke English. His parents only spoke English.

*Welsh and Cornish belong to the Celtic family of languages. Their predecessor, Brittonic, was spoken throughout England and Wales by 600BC, and under the Romans, although Latin was the official language, Brittonic remained the language of everyday life. It borrowed words from Latin for things introduced by the Romans, and some survive in modern Welsh in words such as pont, from pons, a bridge, and eglwys, from ecclesia, a church. The Saxon invasions drove Brittonic speakers to the extremes of the region, and in each place the language developed separately. In Wales it became early Welsh by the sixth century, and by the ninth century it was the official language.*

*Although English became the official language in 1536, Welsh remained the language of the people. The massive migration into Wales following the industrial revolution led to a slow decline in the proportion of Welsh speakers, until the beginning of the twentieth century, when English speakers outnumbered Welsh for the first time. Recently, government support has encouraged a revival. As a result, over 20% of the population as a whole now speaks the language, and more than 50% in West Wales.*

The census of 1881 provides an opportunity to see where all these branches of the family were at the same point in time:

There were five married couples bringing up small children. In Neath
William Davies, the blacksmith aged 39, & Mary his wife, aged 36, were bringing up 5 children, including **David John Davies**, aged 8, in Briton Ferry Road. George, aged 26, & Rachel Jones, aged 23, had a son and a daughter **Mary Jones**, aged 2, in Pen-y-Dre. William, aged 42, & Catherine Williams, aged 48, were living with four of their sons in Henry Street. **Elizabeth Ann Williams**, their daughter aged 6, was lodging a few doors away, perhaps because of a shortage of space in the Henry Street house.

In Llanengan, Caernarfon, Owen Jones, aged 36, was mining lead, living with his wife Mary, aged 26, and three children including **Isaac Jones**, aged 5. And in Illogan, Richard, aged 32, & Eliza Ellen Penrose, aged 29, were back from California with their two daughters Ellen, aged 7, and **Lucretia Mabel Penrose**, aged 4.

Ellen Bawden was bringing up her 3 children including **Frederick Bawden**, aged 7, in the hotel at Robartes Terrace, while her husband Henry was travelling as a musician.

Of the previous generation, Hugh Hughes and Nicholas Gribble and their wives continued farming in their 60’s; Hugh at Tyn-y-Morfa, Llanengan and Nicholas at Illogan. Elizabeth Jones was still at Moel-y-Crio with her second husband at the age of 68, and Richard Penrose was living at Illogan with his wife Frances and still working as a mine agent. James & Martha Sambrook were still at Tower Hill, Fishguard, where they had spent the whole of their married life.

In Neath, Edward Edwards was still making boilers and living with his wife Margaret, while in Cornwall, James Bawden and John Lawry were both widowers. John was a stonemason at the age of 60, but James had given up mining and had gone back to his agricultural roots as a gardener in Redruth.

James Edwin Brown's widow Jane was living in West London with her two teenage daughters and working as a dressmaker.

Four other young people were growing up in the Midlands and South East of England:

James Austin Brown was an 18 year-old saddle-maker in London, and Elizabeth Bright at 15 was working as a laundress in Sittingbourne in Kent with her mother Phoebe, who had remarried following the death of William. John Thwaites was 10, living with his widowed mother Ann Maria in her tinplate shop in Weedon Bec, Northants. Mary Ann Huntley, also 10 years old, was living with her mother and new stepfather Thomas Tisdell in Deptford and using his surname in 1881.

In addition, there were four widows from an earlier generation:

Mary Ann Willoughby, the widow of William, was still alive. After the death of her husband she ran a beershop in Illogan for some years, living with six of her adult children. Following the tragic death of her son Livingstone at the age of 18 in an accident on board a ship at Porthleven, she retired and moved in with her son-in-law John Lawry. She later moved with him to Penzance where she died in 1890.

Sarah Edwards, who had spent all her life in Skewen, Neath, was 69 and a pauper. Sarah Bright, in Houghton Regis was 62 and working as a charwoman, and Emma Huntley at 63 was living in Liverpool with her son.

By 1884, James Austin Brown had married Elizabeth Bright, and had moved to Northfleet where he worked as a saddler. They had three sons in the next four years, including **Herbert Thomas Brown** born in 1888, and a daughter twelve years later.

John Thwaites moved into leather working too, coming back to London, where his grandfather had been born, and marrying Mary Ann Huntley in 1890. They settled in Rotherhithe, bringing up a son and two daughters, including **Dora Louise Thwaites**, born in 1893.

So by 1895, the eight children who were to become Jane & Roger's grandparents were growing up around the country:

Dora Louise Thwaites aged 2 lived at 5 Eugenia Road, Bermondsey, and Herbert Thomas Brown aged 7 in Northfleet. Isaac Jones had first started work as a draper's apprentice in Pwllheli near his parents' home, but then returned to his family's mining roots as a platelayer, laying railway track in the mines of the South Wales coalfield. He was 19 years old and living in Neath. Also in Neath were Elizabeth Williams aged 20 in Henry Street, David John Davies, a tinplate worker

aged 22 in Briton Ferry Road, and the 16 year-old Mary Jones in
Pen-y-Dre. Finally, in Illogan, 19 year-old Lucretia Mabel Penrose was living at home, and Frederick Bawden, aged 21, was working in Lucretia's father's mineral water factory, where the two probably met.

Unmarried, Lucretia became pregnant in 1898. She moved to London and her baby, **Charles Guy Penrose**, was born on Guy Fawkes Day, November 5th 1898 at the West Square home of Miss Charlotte Sharman, the founder of a girls' orphanage in the adjacent Austral Street, Southwark.

Charlotte was a Baptist spinster who dedicated her life to the care of young girls who had lost at least one parent. Her standards were high and she had firm ideas on the care of young girls. The orphanage was home to over two hundred girls, all of whom managed to bath every Friday night using just four baths. They were well looked after, and even sent on seaside holidays. The girls were trained at the home, and on leaving at the age of seventeen were much sought after as nannies, teachers and domestic servants.

The surviving records of the orphanage show that it was not its usual practice to take in male children or unmarried mothers for their confinement, although a few small babies were useful for the girls' training. Certainly Charles was soon "boarded out".

The orphanage infirmary in West Square where Charles Penrose was

Frederick also moved to London, working as a commercial traveller. Though they did not marry, Lucretia took the name Bawden and lived with Frederick in Kennington. Two years later, another baby, Gertrude Ella, was born. Frederick was named as the father on Gertude's birth certificate but Charles' father was not named. Charles DNA was 50% Cornish and 50% Devon, and DNA matches suggest that his biological father was Albert Edward Rowe, who was born in Plymouth, but was working apart from his wife as a newsagent in Redruth at the time. Frederick was working at a gold mine in Mysore, India, at the time Charles was conceived, so could not have been the father, although he seems to have adopted him briefly in London.
Soon afterwards Frederick and Lucretia parted. Frederick returned to Illogan to live with his mother at the hotel in Robartes Terrace and work again with brother Harry at the Penrose factory.

The Robartes Arms, Illogan.

He married Winifred Evans, another of Mabel's cousins from Illogan, in 1901, and died in Illogan in 1945, at the age of 71. Harry Bawden, his brother, married Annie Rickard, also a cousin of Mabel, in 1903.

Lucretia went to live with her sister Ellen in St Just, the most westerly town in England. There she met and married James Williams, a miner aged 40, and had five further children. Together they ran the village pub, The King's Arms, in Paul, near Penzance. James died in 1922 and Lucretia married Josiah Trembath, a local market gardener. They lived in Mousehole, where she died, aged 69, in 1946. A gravestone in Paul cemetery, near Penzance, records the death of James Williams in 1922 and that of his wife Lucretia Mabel in 1946, but does not give her surname as Trembath. It may be that their son John Penrose Williams wanted a single memorial to both his parents. Throughout her married life in Cornwall, Mabel presented herself as a pillar of local society, and the secret of her

first two children was well kept.  Many of her grandchildren and great nephews and nieces still live locally.

Lucretia's two children, Charles and Gertrude, were brought up by Henrietta Buckland at 10 Whiteley Road, Gypsy Hill, London.

10 Whiteley Road, Gypsy Hill, where Charles Bawden, later Buckland

Both children used the name Bawden at home and at school in Shooters Hill.  At the time this area was at the extreme edge of London’s urban sprawl, bordering countryside. Charles also kept his parentage a close secret. He maintained that he was an orphan, left by unknown parents on Henrietta’s doorstep, and that he had chosen his birthdate of November 5 and his middle name of Guy. In his later life, though, Jane remembers him interrupting family holidays to conduct business in Cornwall.

Henrietta was a fisherman's daughter from Porthleven in Cornwall. She moved to Norwood as a domestic servant where she met her husband Thomas Buckland, who had worked in a mineral water factory in Reigate some years before their marriage.  Thomas died in 1897, and Henrietta brought up her three natural and two adopted children alone.

In 1899, Isaac Jones married Elizabeth Ann Williams in Neath.  They continued to live in the little two-bedroom house in Henry Street, where they raised a son and six daughters, the youngest of which was **Edith Jones**, born in 1916.  Edith was named after Edith Vincent, the wife of her mother's brother Leyshon Williams, a railway engine driver.  Isaac & Elizabeth's son William was for a time a professional soldier, but died in his forties from lung cancer. Catherine, who worked as an hotel receptionist in Builth Wells, also died young, soon after her marriage, but the other four sisters lived to a good age.  Phyllis married a herbalist and Bessie a nurse from a mental hospital.  Violet ran a succession of hotels with her husband Herbert Pearn.  In December 1962 they were aboard the cruise liner

Lakonia when it caught fire and sank off Madeira. They were rescued after many hours in the water but never fully recovered, and retired soon afterwards. Blodwen married three times, and for many years ran a guesthouse in the Mumbles.

Edith was the seventh child of Elizabeth Ann Jones, and always said she was the seventh child of a seventh child. Her mother, though, was actually the eighth child of Catherine Williams. Two of these were from her first marriage to William Evans. David died at the age of 12 and William took his mother's new married name as William Evans Williams so that when she was born, Elizabeth Ann was the seventh child in the Williams household.

Isaac died of pneumonia in 1925 at the age of 49, having worked all his life as a platelayer in a colliery. By the time of his wife's death in 1948, however, he had been 'promoted' to a mine engineer. Elizabeth Ann died, aged 74, at her daughter Edith's home in Lewis Road, Neath in 1948.

David John Davies married Mary Jones in 1905, and lived in Pen-y-Dre, at 19 Sydenham Terrace. They had three children who died in infancy as well as four sons, including **William Davies** who was born there in 1909. Edward, his eldest brother, became the general manager of a steel factory, Arthur was an industrial worker, and Jack ran an off-licence. David & Mary lived in the same house in Pen-y-Dre until Mary died aged 75 in 1955. David moved to a hostel where he died three years later at the age of 85.

Llantwit cemetery, Neath. The low grave in the foreground is that of David John Davies and his wife Mary, and on its right is the stone of George &

On 11 February 1904, six days before his sixteenth birthday, Herbert Thomas Brown enlisted in the Royal Navy, claiming to be nearly seventeen years old. He served on shore there until 8 May 1906, when he went to sea aboard *HMS Triumph*.

He served in the Royal Navy until the end of the First World War as a cook, seeing action aboard *HMS Superb* at the battle of Jutland. During this time he married Dora Louise Thwaites, and she gave

birth to Ivy and Dora, the first two of his four daughters – or so he told his family and friends.

In fact, his Royal Navy service record at the National Archives reveals that he left the Navy at his own request on 6 September 1907 and returned to shore, and to his previous occupation as a baker. In 1911 he was living with his father in Greenwich, and working with him as a baker. He did indeed marry Dora Louise Thwaites on 1 November 1913 at St Katherine's church in Eugenia Road, Rotherhithe.

Ivy was born at their home in nearby Ablett Street on 6 October 1914, and was christened at St Katherine's on 25th October, as Ivy Dora Maud Brown, the daughter of Herbert Thomas and Dora Louise Brown, of 30 Ablett Street.

Her birth certificate however tells a different story. The birth was registered after the christening, and outside the statutory 40 day limit, on 10 December 1914 by her mother, Alice Brown, formerly Alice Knight. The father is listed as Herbert Brown, a journeyman baker now a private in the Royal Field Artillery, and the birth as having taken place at 30 Ablett Street.

We will probably never know just what happened. An Alice Knight was born a few streets away from Herbert in Northfleet in 1888, but she was still living there in 1911 and married there in 1915. More likely is the Alice Maud Knight born in Rotherhithe in 1898. Her elder brother George was a baker and she was living nearby, in Parfitt Street Rotherhithe, in 1911. She shares a middle name with Ivy. As she was just 16 years old when Ivy was born, it is possible that Herbert and Dora resolved to bring the baby up as their own.

There is no record of Herbert Brown serving in the Royal Field Artillery at this time, and indeed there is no rank of private in that regiment. The ordinary soldiers are gunners or drivers.

It is not clear whether Ivy herself was ever aware of this situation. Family members recall her saying that she had never seen her birth certificate, so it is possible that she never knew.

In 1918, the British armed services were struggling to find replacements for their depleted forces, and cancelled exemption certificates held by members of protected occupation, including bakers. As a result, Herbert was called up in May 1918. To avoid the army, he rejoined the Royal Navy on 14 May. He did serve on *HMS Superb*, though not at the battle of Jutland, and was demobbed as an officers' cook class 2 in May 1919.

*The battle of Jutland was one of a very small number of actions seen by the Royal Navy during the First World War. The principal role of the fleet was to blockade German ports in the North Sea and prevent the German fleet putting to sea. It was this blockade of German commerce through the North Sea, which ultimately starved the German people and industries and contributed to Germany seeking the Armistice of 1918. However, the lack of action would have been embarrassing for ratings and officers returning home and sharing stories with soldiers who had seen action in France, and sailors would certainly have played up the limited action they did see. As an officers' cook, Herbert would have heard these stories, and used them as the basis for his fictitious war record*

After his return in 1919, Bert and Dora had two more daughters, **Eileen Joan May Brown**, born in 1927, and Maureen Winifred in 1930. Dora Brown became a nursing sister, and afterwards ran a private hotel on the Isle of Wight. After his return in 1919, Bert and Dora had two more daughters, **Eileen Joan May Brown**, born in 1927, and Maureen Winifred in 1930. Dora Brown became a nursing sister. After the war Ivy married a fireman and Maureen a stockbroker. Herbert & Dora Louise lived in Eugenia Road until the house was destroyed by enemy bombing in World War II.

Later they lived in Charnwood Road, South Norwood, and then Madeira Avenue, Horsham to be near Eileen and Maureen, who both lived locally. Dora died there aged 69 in 1962, and Herbert six years later, aged 80, at Ivy's home on the Isle of Wight.

Eugenia Road, Bermondsey, before it was redeveloped

Although Isaac Jones died of pneumonia at the age of 49, Jane & Roger's other seven grandparents were long-lived, surviving on average to the age of 75.

Charles Bawden left school at the earliest possible date, his fourteenth birthday, and worked as a galvaniser in a local factory. He was called up in October 1918, just before the end of the war, and joined the RAF as a batman. As a senior member of the RAF, the officer he served was stationed at its headquarters in the Hotel Cecil in the Strand. With 800 rooms, the hotel was the largest and one of the most luxurious hotels in London, and had been requestioned for the war effort.

After demobilisation in 1919 he returned to the hotel and worked as a reception clerk. He later maintained that he had served in the Royal Flying Corps, flying over France as an observer.

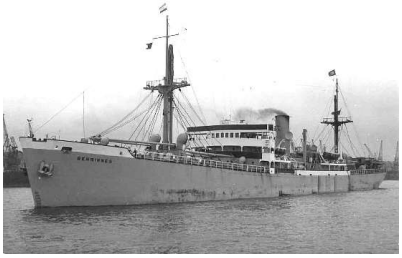
The Hotel Cecil on the Embankment, now demolished and replaced by Shell Mex House, where Charles

In 1921, still living at Whiteley Road and using the name Buckland, he married Lillian Louise Rogers, his first wife. Their only child Peter was born in Camberwell in 1923. He lived in Tonbridge where he worked as a jeweller, and had two sons, Michael and David. He retired to Sidmouth in Devon, where his son Michael works as an artist.

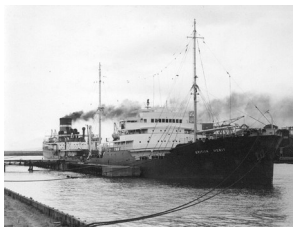
Gertrude, Charles' sister, was a civil servant. She married Thomas Henry Scott, also a clerk in the civil service, in 1923, and worked at the War Office during the Second World War. Thomas committed suicide in 1943, and in 1947 Gertrude married Joseph Dunn, an American soldier, and moved to the United States. She lived in Colorado for many years before moving to Fontana, California, where she died in 2003 at the age of 103.

Charles separated from Lillian, but she was not prepared to grant him a divorce, which required the consent of the aggrieved party at that time. He lived at several addresses in South East London and in 1929 formally changed his name to Buckland by deed poll. He had in fact been using this name for some time. He ran a series of newsagent shops, including one in West Wickham, Kent, after the Second World War. During the war, he was too old for active service, but may have served in the Home Guard. At this time he owned a property in Five Ashes, East Sussex, where he kept chickens.

William Davies married Edith Jones in 1937. At the time he was a shop assistant, but later worked at the Metal Spinning Company, a tinplate manufacturing works in Briton Ferry. He was called up to serve in the Merchant Navy, joining his first ship in July 1942, after just one week's training at a school for firemen in Cardiff.



SS *Ocean Volunteer*, on which William began his war service and, right, SS *British Merit*



Bill's first voyage, as a coal stoker aboard SS *Ocean Volunteer*, took him first to Suez by way of Capetown. The ship was carrying supplies for the RAF base which was supporting General Montgomery during the second, and decisive, battle at El Alamein. It then crossed the South Atlantic to Brazil, before loading grain at Portland, Maine and heading for New York to join Convoy HX231 for the hazardous journey home across the North Atlantic.

The convoy comprised 61 ships, with a small naval escort. It was attacked by a task force of 20 submarines south of Iceland, but despite the size of the attacking force, only three ships were hit in the two day battle. Bill kept a log of this voyage and recorded the horrific sight of ships sinking around him before arriving safely in Belfast.

*Convoy HX231 marked a turning point in the battle of the Atlantic. In the previous month, almost 100 allied ships had been sunk by German submarines. The convoy's escort ships were the first to use a new technique of triangulating the brief radio signals from the submarines, allowing them to fix their position and dispatch high speed warships to attack and return quickly to defend the convoy. By May, these new tactics were so successful that German submarines were withdrawn entirely from the North Atlantic.*

Bill served on five more ships, including oil and kerosene tankers, and circled the world twice, visiting Australia, South Africa, the Eastern and Western seaboards of the United States and India before his return home as an engineer officer in 1946. This period of his life had such a profound influence on him that he spoke about it almost to the exclusion of his other occupations. Many people understood that he had spent his whole life as a Merchant Navy engineer officer, although he never mentioned his time as a stoker.

At the end of the war, while at his shop in West Wickham, Charles Buckland met Eileen Brown, who was working in the bicycle shop next door. The relationship blossomed, and Eileen was soon accompanying Charles on weekend trips in his MG sports car to his home in Five Ashes, chaperoned, at the insistence of Eileen's parents, by her sister Maureen, then aged 15.

To the consternation of her parents, Eileen became pregnant. She was only 19 and Charles was 48. Charles was still unable to divorce his first wife Lillian, so Eileen changed her name to Buckland by Deed Poll, and went to stay at Winsor Villa, Princetown, Devon, where their daughter **Jane Buckland** was born in 1947.

Winsor Villa, Princetow

They returned to another of Charles' shops at 10 Wisbech Road, Kings Lynn but soon moved to 9 Graham Close, Shirley, where their second child Richard was born in 1949. Two years later, Lillian finally agreed to divorce Charles and he married Eileen at St Pancras Registry Office, London in 1951. Although living in Shirley, he gave their address as Greenland Road,
Camden Town, the home of Jesse & Mary Buckland. Jesse was a natural son of Henrietta; Charles had grown up with him and they remained friends for all their lives.

In 1952, Charles & Eileen with their two children moved to Greengarth, Southwater, West Sussex and lived there until Richard left school in 1966, when they returned to the newsagents' business

in a shop in Wargrave, Berkshire with Richard. They later ran shops in Stockbridge, Hampshire and Oake in Somerset, where Charles died in 1981 at the age of 82. Eileen and Richard took another shop, in Leverington, near Wisbech, before retiring to Gedney Drove End, in Lincolnshire. Eileen died there in 1988, aged 61.

William & Edith had a daughter, Katherine Mary, in 1939 just before war was declared, and a son, **Roger William Davies**, after their reunion in 1946.

William's family originated from Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Neath, while Edith's came from North Wales and the Vale of Glamorgan, as well as Neath. They were both direct descendants of Thomas and Mary Jenkin, who lived in Neath in the eighteenth century, so they were fifth cousins.

55 Lewis Road Neath, where Roger was

William, or Bill as he was often known, returned to work in the metal processing industry for the British Aluminium Company at the Rheola Works in the Neath Valley until his retirement. Bill & Edith lived in a rented flat at 55 Lewis Road, Neath for much of their married life. However, in 1965 they bought their first house at Castle Drive on the Glannant Farm estate in Cimla, Neath, before moving to a flat in Worthing in 1984. William died in 1999, shortly before his ninetieth birthday. Edith moved to a residential home and died in 2007, just three days after attending a party with all her descendants to celebrate her ninetieth birthday.

Castle Drive,
Cimla, Neath.

None of Jane & Roger's ancestors were educated beyond secondary school and most lived ordinary working class lives, although Edith's cousin Iorwen Myfanwy Jones earned an MA from Aberystwyth with a thesis on nineteenth century Welsh literature for girls. But after the war, things changed rapidly.

Jane attended Southwater Primary School and Horsham High School for Girls. Roger went to Alderman Davies' Primary School in Neath and then to Hereford Cathedral School, where he was a choral scholar. Both stayed at school after the age of 16, and continued their education at university. Indeed three of the four children of Charles & Eileen and William & Edith went on to higher education, and more than half of their siblings' children did the same. Of this new post-war generation, three-quarters followed professional careers.

*The rapidity of this change was unusual. In the 1960's, the proportion of school-leavers going on to university was only about 5%, and even by the turn of the century, a 50% higher education rate remained a government target, rather than an achievement.*

It was at University College, London that Jane met Roger. They were soon engaged, and spent three happy years holding hands during lectures. After graduating in 1968 they were married at St Mary's Church in Wargrave, Berkshire, where Jane's family kept a shop. Roger joined what was then the Norwich Union Insurance Group to train as an actuary, and Jane took up teaching after a short spell as the only female accountancy student at Norwich Union. Their first daughter, Sally Jane, was born in Norwich in 1971 and their second, Katy Louise, in the tiny village of Alpington, Norfolk in 1973. Roger qualified later that year, and after a short period in Little Chalfont, Bucks, where their son David Charles William was born in 1975, the family moved to Worthing. In 1980, they bought and renovated The Hollies, in High Street Tarring, where they lived until 2003 when they moved to a seafront apartment at The Warnes, where they still live.

The Hollies in High Street Tarring, Worthing where Jane & Roger, Sally, Katy and David

**Further Reading**

A Wartime Adventure. The log of Bill Davies' first wartime voyage
Artistic Ancestors. William Woollett and the Barengers
Edith Davies. A family album
Richard Penrose and his daughters
George Hilbury Warne and the Warnes Hotel
Tarring, a walk through its history. 1990 ISBN 0 9516309 0 3